

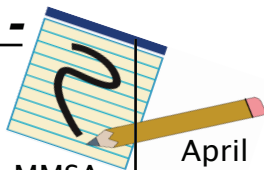


MMSA NEWS

April 2013

Volume XVII Issue XXI

Notes from the Principals -



Dear MMS Families,

Spring is here! A big "Thank You" to our MMSA once again for their support this school year.

All of our successes up to now would not have been possible without the support and encouragement received from you. Education is a partnership that includes the students, parents, school, and community. We are pleased with our progress in the past three quarters and remain committed to further progress through the end of the school year.

Please continue to utilize our website as an important source of information for homework, instructional resources, contacting staff, and the calendar of events. Parents can access the Parent Portal via the District's website (<https://powerschool.mansfieldct.org>).

In partnership with family and community, the mission of Mansfield Middle School is to implement an open-ended curriculum which embraces not only mastery of basic skills, but also a higher level of thinking and learning. We provide all students with a foundation for lifelong learning by creating a safe and supportive environment, where they are prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Great things continue to happen at Mansfield Middle School, and we are working hard to meet the mission.

We are here to serve our students, parents, and community. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance to you or your student.

Sincerely,

Thanh V. Nguyen
Principal
nguyentv@mansfieldct.org



Mark Your Calendar



April

- April 12- MMSA Talent Show, 5-7:30PM
- April 19- 6th Grade Field Trip to Sturbridge Village
- April 22-26- Spring Vacation, No School
- April 27 - State History Day ECSU

May

- May 1 - MMSA Meeting, 7:00 PM
- May 8 - Spring Band Concert, 7:00-8:30
- May 9 - Spring Band Assembly, 9:00 AM
- May 9 - Getting To Know You Night (4th Grade Orientation for Parents)
- May 13 - Progress Reports go home this week
- May 14 - 5th Grade Field Trip- SaltMarsh Opera
- May 15 - Spring Orchestra Concert 6:30
- May 16 - Orchestra and Choral Assembly, 1:00PM
- May 22 - Spring Choral Concert
- May 27 - Memorial Day, No School and MMS Band Marches in Parade, 9:00AM
- May 29 - Beginning Band Concert, 6:30PM

June

- June 5 - MMSA Meeting at 7PM
- June 6 - Grade 7—Medieval Faire, 3-5PM
- June 18- Grade 8 Class Picnic - Holiday Hill
- June 21 - Grade 8 Class Night 5:30-9:00PM
- June 24 - Grade 8 Closing Ceremony 7:00PM
- June 25 - Last day of School (12:05 Dismissal)

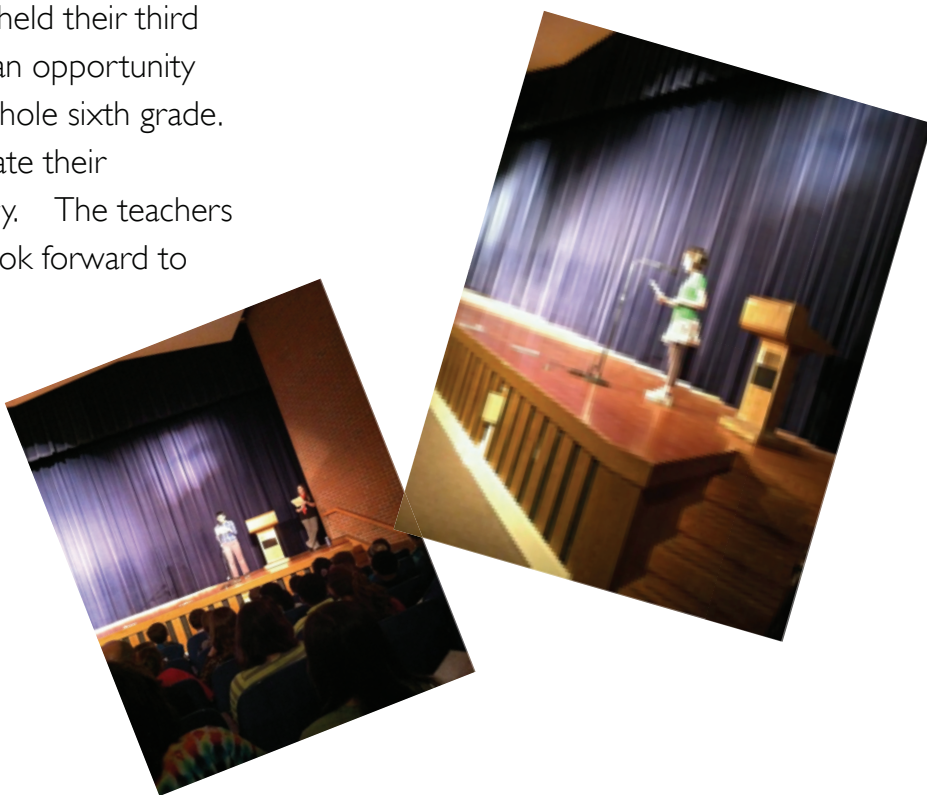
Nominations for the MMSA Executive Board and Committee Charis are being accepted now through the June 5th MMSA meeting where voting for next year's officers/chairs will take place.

The MMSA needs your unique talents to help enrich your child's education.

Meetings are held ~6x/s per year and can fit into everyone's busy family schedule.

(see attache nomination form)

Grade 6 Poetry Slam: The sixth grade held their third annual Poetry Slam. This gave the students an opportunity to share a poem that they wrote with the whole sixth grade. It was a great way for students to demonstrate their understanding of analyzing and writing poetry. The teachers are very proud of all the young poets and look forward to hold another one at the end of the year.



MMS Chamber Choir: Music teacher, Mr. Ken Johnson and the Mansfield Middle School Chamber Choir provided the entertainment at annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England held this year at University of Connecticut. MANY attendees were astonished to discover these were middle school students and were truly amazed by the quality of their performance.



History at MMS:

The Eastern CT Regional History Day Competition was held at Mansfield Middle School on Saturday, March 23rd. We are very proud of all of the students and their hard work. Thank you to Mrs. Kelly Brouse and the Social Studies teachers for organizing and coordinating District History Day.

The following students placed in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, qualifying them for the State Contest [on April 27th](#) at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Junior Group Documentary:

1st Place, Destiny of Dolly, by Smriti Hamal, Anne Wu, Adrienne Martineau (gr. 7)

Junior Individual Documentary:

1st Place: Kathrine Switzer, by Amealia Maynard (gr. 6)

Junior Group Exhibit:

1st Place; Beyond the Cages of Cruelty, by Maggie Chafouleas and Callie Storrs (gr. 7)

2nd Place; Electric Guitar, by Misha Rosado and Maria Mantas (gr. 7)

Junior Paper:

1st Place, Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Vida Javidi (gr. 8)

3rd place, Domesticating the Human: How Cats Changed the Course of History, by Chloe Gibson (gr. 8)

Junior Group Performance:

1st Place: Environmental Awareness, by Claire Chang & Emily Kaufman (gr. 8)

2nd Place: Civil Rights Movement, by Heather Abdullah, Jenny Wells, Joyce Nieh, Alina van den Berg (gr. 8)

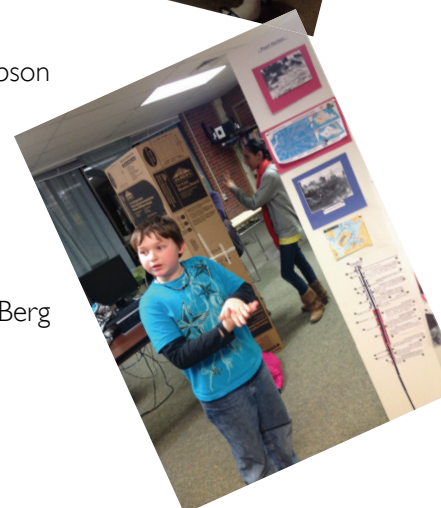
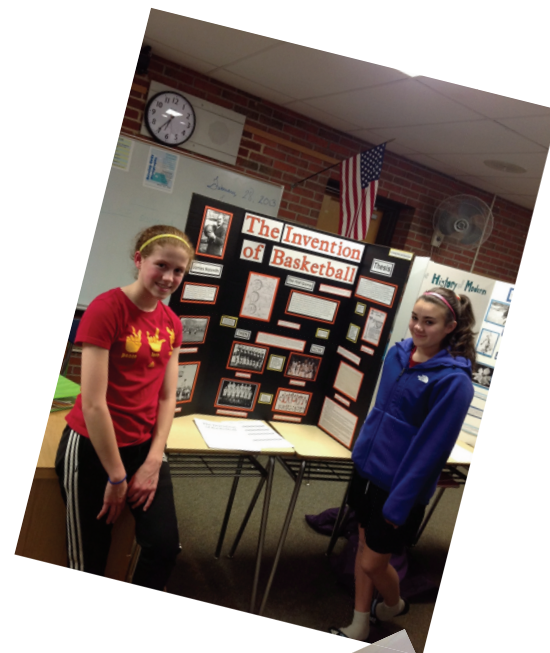
Junior Group Website:

1st Place: The Bicycle, by Katie Cranmer & Avja Montoya (gr. 7)

3rd place: Impact of Ruby Bridges, by Mary Pociask, Ella Gildersleeve, Olivia Lacrafta (gr. 8)

Junior Individual Exhibit:

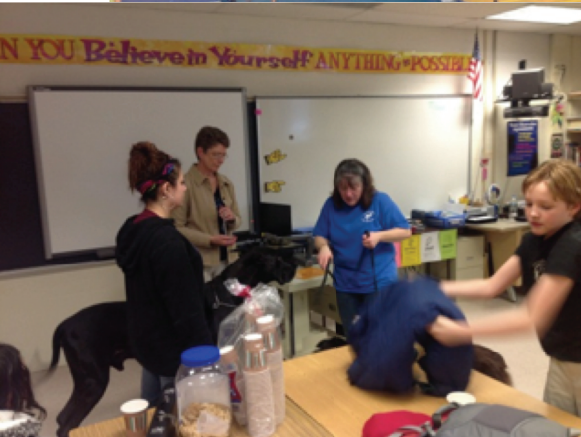
1st Place: Trench Warfare, by Gabe Wright (gr. 6)



Grade 8 Debate: The Grade 8 debate competition sponsored by Civics First is scheduled on Tuesday, April 30. This year thirty students (15 teams) will travel to John Winthrop Middle School in Deep River, CT. The debates will begin at 3:30. The resolve is: "The United States Should Amend The Constitution to Allow a Foreign-Born President."



3rd Quarter After School Activities:



Grade 7 Field Trip Worcester, MA



Is Your House Leaking?

It could be wasting money and energy. You can improve your home's comfort and performance.

One of the **first steps** is to sign up for a Home Energy Solutions visit. The Town of Mansfield and Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge have teamed up to encourage residents to get a Home Energy Solutions assessment. Connecticut Light & Power is offering a Home Energy Savings assessment to help their customers reduce energy waste and save money. This visit involves a variety of services performed by certified home energy consultants, including:



- Air sealing to prevent drafts and leaks in the house
- Duct testing and sealing
- Installation of hot water-saving measures including low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators
- Appliance inspection
- Rebates for replacement of certain inefficient appliances with qualifying energy-efficient models
- Installation of energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Heating and cooling system evaluation
- Insulation evaluation and incentives for insulation upgrades

At the end of the visit, the technician will review the work done in your home, provide an estimate of how much money you should expect to save, and describe further steps you can take to save additional energy and money. This assessment is valued at over \$750 and costs only \$75, paid at the time of the visit. If you meet the income-eligible guidelines, you may qualify for a **free** Home Energy Solutions visit. As an added benefit,

For each Home Energy Solutions Assessment completed, the MMSA will receive a \$25 donation to continue to help pay for our school's activities.

You can sign up now at:

www.CTEnergyChallenge.com/hes

860 372-4406



Mansfield Rid Litter Day

Saturday, May 4, 2013

Let's Clean Up Our Town

Rid your neighborhood of litter by getting a few of your neighbors together on Saturday, May 4, 2013 to pick up litter. Roadside wooded areas and wetlands collect a lot of debris. Not only is litter unsightly, plastic litter can be harmful to wildlife.

Littered cans, glass and plastic bottles can be recycled and you are encouraged to keep them separate from other roadside litter.

Bags of litter may be placed out with household trash if you have collection service or taken to the Mansfield transfer station for no charge. The transfer station is located on Rte 89, one mile from the intersection of Routes 195 and 89 in Mansfield Center.

For more information about Rid Litter Day or the Adopt-A-Road program, call the Public Works office at 860-429-3333.

Methods of Disposal:

If you are signed up for household trash service—no service level restrictions apply the week of May 6.

If you use the Mansfield Transfer Station on Rte 89—no charge. The Transfer Station hours are Tuesdays & Saturdays 8:30 am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.





Nominations & Elections for 2013-2014

- ✓ I want **MMS** to be one of the best schools in **CT**
- ✓ I want my child to have a great school year – to learn and to have fun!
- ✓ I want to help decide how PTO fundraising moneys are spent.
- ✓ I want all the students at **MMS** be successful.

If the above statements are true, then “help us help the school”. Parent involvement is critical for a successful school, so volunteer as a PTO officer or a committee chair for **2013-2014**. There are jobs that take no more than a couple hours a month or year, some are that are seasonal, and a few that require a routine commitment.

Dedicated teachers, staff, and **PARENTS** help make **MMS** a great school! Join us – it’s rewarding, it’s important, it’s even fun!

Nominate yourself or someone else. All positions can be shared. (See back of form for position descriptions.)

Elections will be held at the **MMSA Meeting on Wed June 5th** in room #99. Please return this form to your child’s teacher or to the school office.

Elected Officers

Nominee Name

Contact Info

President

Vice- President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Nominee Name

Contact Info

Fundraising

Hospitality

Open House

Newsletter

Grants

History Day

Field Day

8th Grade Closing Ceremony

Staff Appreciation Day

Please return this form to your child’s teacher or to the school office.

Officer and Committee Chair Descriptions

The PTO Executive Board is comprised of elected officers, committee chairs, and school representatives. It meets 6 or 7 times per year, typically the 1st Wed of a month in the evening to conduct PTO business. Anyone may attend.

Elected Officers

President – Presides over meetings, presents at Open House, contributes to newsletter, prepares welcome letter to parents, obtains nominations for MMSA committees, coordinates MMSA activities, coordinates with other Mansfield parent organizations, receives/responds to correspondence. (Effort: year-round, on-going)

Vice President - Serves as back-up for all presidential activities, supports president in coordination of committee work, helps to promote MMSA to new parents, as available, coordinates newsletter. (Effort: year-round, time varies depending upon roles)

Secretary – Prepares meeting agenda with input from other MMSA officers, attends all scheduled MMSA meetings, takes minutes at MMSA meetings, send minutes, etc...to technology coordinator and principal for inclusion on MMSA website and internet notification system, reviews website each marking period for necessary revisions, prepares list of email addresses/phone #'s of active MMSA members (Effort: 2 - 3 hours per month, includes attending meeting and typing up minutes)

Treasurer – Discusses proposed budget with other officers prior to end of school year, drafts proposed budget which itemized anticipated revenue and expenditures, presents proposed budget to Executive Board and full membership for amendment or approval (by June meeting), keeps records of all revenue and expenditures, issues checks and payments as necessary, makes brief treasurer's report at each MMSA meeting. (Effort: 1- 2 hours per month, average)

Chairs and Other Positions (Remember, these are COMMITTEES – there should be volunteers to help!!)

Fundraising - Manage the coordination of the MMSA's fund-raising activities. We hold a few different fundraisers throughout the year and some other small programs include Box Tops for Education, etc... (2 or 3 per year).

Hospitality – Coordinate donations of refreshments for various school activities and event as well as coordinate volunteers to serve at these events (1 or 2 per year).

Open House – Coordinate a group to share in the meet and greet activities for the MMSA at Open House (beginning of school year) where we introduce ourselves, provide info on what we do, collect Direct Giving donations, provide volunteer sign-up sheets, etc...(once per year)

Newsletter – Prepare newsletter in conjunction with school administration to be distributed electronically when grade report packets are sent home (typically we are provided with all newsletter content and are formatting the newsletter into a presentable layout).

Grants – Solicit and evaluate requests for teacher grants

History Day – Prepare refreshments for judges at regional History Day

Field Day – Assist teachers and staff with their coordination efforts and help recruit volunteers for 'day of' activities.

8th Grade Closing Ceremony – Coordinate reception/refreshments that will follow ceremony.

Staff Appreciation – Organize volunteers and donated refreshments/breakfast for teachers and staff. (usually in June, discussions on a beginning of school one as well)